

(b) The Gulf of Mexico EA extends from 12 nautical miles off the U.S. Gulf coast outward into the Gulf.

Subpart B—Applications and Licenses

§ 27.11 Initial authorization.

(a) An applicant must file an application for an initial WCS authorization in each market and channel block desired. Applicants are permitted to list all markets and channel blocks in a single application where all requisite exhibits and justifications are identical.

(b) The initial WCS authorizations shall be granted for 10 megahertz of spectrum in accordance with § 27.5. Authorizations for Blocks A and B will be based on Major Economic Areas (MEAs), as shown in § 27.6. Authorizations for Blocks C and D will be based on Regional Economic Area Groupings (REAGs), as shown in § 27.6. Applications for individual sites are not required and will not be accepted, except where required for environmental assessments, in accordance with § 27.63.

§ 27.12 Eligibility.

Any entity, other than those precluded by section 310 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. section 310, is eligible to hold a license under this part.

§ 27.13 License period.

Initial WCS authorizations will have a term not to exceed ten years from the date of original issuance or renewal.

§ 27.14 Construction requirements; Criteria for comparative renewal proceedings.

(a) WCS licensees must make a showing of “substantial service” in their license area within ten years of being licensed. “Substantial” service is defined as service which is sound, favorable, and substantially above a level of mediocre service which just might minimally warrant renewal. Failure by any licensee to meet this requirement will result in forfeiture of the license and the licensee will be ineligible to regain it.

(b) A renewal applicant involved in a comparative renewal proceeding shall receive a preference, commonly referred to as a renewal expectancy, which is the most important comparative factor to be considered in the proceeding, if its past record for the relevant license period demonstrates that:

(1) The renewal applicant has provided “substantial” service during its past license term; and

(2) The renewal applicant has substantially complied with applicable FCC rules, policies and the Communications Act of 1934, as amended.

(c) In order to establish its right to a renewal expectancy, a WCS renewal applicant involved in a comparative renewal proceeding must submit a showing explaining why it should receive a renewal expectancy. At a minimum, this showing must include:

(1) A description of its current service in terms of geographic coverage and population served;

(2) An explanation of its record of expansion, including a timetable of new construction to meet changes in demand for service;

(3) A description of its investments in its WCS system; and

(4) Copies of all FCC orders finding the licensee to have violated the Communications Act or any FCC rule or policy; and a list of any pending proceedings that relate to any matter described in this paragraph.

(d) In making its showing of entitlement to a renewal expectancy, a renewal applicant may claim credit for any system modification applications that were pending on the date it filed its renewal application. Such credit will not be allowed if the modification application is dismissed or denied.

§ 27.15 Geographic partitioning and spectrum disaggregation.

(a) *Eligibility.* (1) Parties seeking approval for partitioning and disaggregation shall request from the Commission an authorization for partial assignment of a license pursuant to section 27.324.

(2) WCS licensees may apply to partition their licensed geographic service area or disaggregate their licensed spectrum at any time following the grant of their licenses.